



Swiss Archives Offering Records Online

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Several Swiss archives now offer digitized records online. This presentation will explain some available resources.

USEFUL RESOURCES

- https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Switzerland_Genealogy FamilySearch Wiki main page for Switzerland
- <http://www.hls-dhs-dss.ch/famn/?lg=e> – The Register of Swiss Surnames. This online version is a good tool to determine surname spellings. It is possible to search for partial names or first letters. The database is based on a 1962 compilation and does not include surnames that are no longer used. It may also include links to biographical sketches of persons by the respective name in German, French, and Italian.
- <http://www.hls-dhs-dss.ch/> - Historical Dictionary of Switzerland, available in German, French, and Italian. It is useful for learning about localities and finding background information. Search options include “article” and “full text”.
- <https://search.ortsnamen.ch/> - An online gazetteer of Switzerland linked to a map, which helps the researcher find the surrounding localities. Click on “online-Datenbank”.
- Archives online <http://archivesonline.org/Search> allows users to search the inventories of connected archives all at once. For a list of participating archives see <http://archivesonline.org/Home/ParticipatingArchives> .
- Switzerland Church Book Extracts:
<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1790933> – Images of hand-written abstracted church records from several cantons. Click on “Hefl” (notebook) for an alphabetized list of surnames with links to the abstracted entries. The title page of each volume lists the names contained in that notebook with the respective town of citizenship.
- Links to family history resources, addresses etc. by canton:
<http://kunden.eye.ch/swissgen/kanton-m.htm>

RECORDS BY CANTON

Appenzell Ausserrhoden

Parish registers are available online at

<https://www.ar.ch/verwaltung/kantonskanzlei/staatsarchiv/kirchenbuecher-online/>. Click on the parish name to bring up a list of available records. Terms used include:

- *Taufverzeichnis* – baptism register
- *Eheverzeichnis* – marriage register
- *Totenverzeichnis* – death register
- *Beisassen* – non-citizens living in the community
- *Auswärts geborene Gemeindebürger* – community citizens born elsewhere
- Ehebrüche und Ehescheidungen – adultery and divorces

Click on the book icon to bring up the images. The words in the red band on top are waypoints that will take you directly to that part of the register.

The latest version of Adobe Flashplayer needs to be enabled to see the images. The archive also recommends using the Google Chrome Internet browser.

Basel- Landschaft

The church books of the parishes marked with an asterisk (*) have been digitized and are available online at <https://www.baselland.ch/politik-und-behorden/besondere-behorden/staatsarchiv/archivbestande/Kirchenbuecher>. The alphabetical list includes cross references and notes about where the records are kept. Click on the reference number on the left to download a PDF document that lists the available books with links to the online versions. Some of the descriptions are quite detailed. In the digitized book, click into the image to scroll across the page in an enlarged view.

The heading “Kapitel” on the left may include various way points. By clicking on these one can get directly to the respective part of the register.

Basel-Stadt

- Church records for Basel-Stadt are available on FamilySearch under the title “Switzerland Church Books, 1277-1992”. On <https://familysearch.org> click on “Search” then “Records”, then on “Continental Europe” (map), then choose Switzerland from the drop-down menu and click on the collection. Click on “browse through 517,510 images”, then the canton “Basel-Stadt”, then parish/community, then religion, record type, and time period covered.

- Basel-Stadt “Local Citizenship Requests, 1348 to 1798” are available on FamilySearch.org; see <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1910365?collectionNameFilter=false>
This collection includes an alphabetical index by last name with page numbers. Entries may include the previous place of residence, place of birth, occupation, and names of family members.

Bern

Church records from Canton Bern are available online at the state archive website and at FamilySearch.

- On <https://familysearch.org> click on “Search” then “Records”, then on “Continental Europe” (map), then choose Switzerland from the drop-down menu. Choose the collection “Switzerland Church Books, 1277-1992”, then the canton, “Bern”, and the parish, religion, record type, and time period covered. At the time these records were first filmed, sixteen parishes had not deposited their records in the state archive, so these localities are not included in the collection. For some of them records were later published on CD-Roms (i.e. Saanen”).
- Copies of some church books can be downloaded from the State Archive website in PDF format at <http://www.query.sta.be.ch/archivplansuche.aspx?ID=37> . Click on the “+” sign next to the word “Kirchenbücher” to open the list and scroll down. Then click on the “+” sign next to the desired parish name to see the list of available books. Double-click on the desired book and then on the link to the respective PDF. Some files are large and take a while to download. The image quality may not be as good as on FamilySearch, but the downloaded book is viewable offline.
- Civil registration records (1792-1876) including births, marriages, deaths, and some 10-year indexes for some towns in Canton Bern are also available on FamilySearch. See <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1883390?collectionNameFilter=false> . Included are Belprahon, Bern, Biel, Bözingen, Châtelat, La Ferrière, Monible, Moutier, Perrefitte, Renan, Roches, Saint-Imier, Sonvilier, Sornetan, Souboz, and Tramelan.
- A book by Heinz R. Wittner titled “Die Mannrechtsrodel von Bern” lists 18th Century citizens of Canton Bern who had moved away and lost their citizenship. It lists numerous emigrants who settled in the United States, especially Pennsylvania. See <http://kunden.ey.ch/swissgen/kant/bemare-d.pdf> .

Freiburg/ Fribourg

Census records from 1811 to 1880 are available online at <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/list#page=1&countryId=1927039> . Most have not been indexed. The images are generally arranged by census district. A list of communities (with page numbers) is included with each district. Information provided varies by year, but generally includes: house number or residence, every resident's first and last names, birth places of non-citizens, marital status, occupation, and age. Notes regarding absent family members may also be included. Availability of records varies by census year. The 1831 census appears to be more statistical in nature and lists some heads of household.

Geneva/ Geneve

The online archive at <https://ge.ch/arvaegconsult/ws/consaeg/public/FICHE/AEGSearch> allows access to digitized images of

- Parish registers
- Civil registration records
- Land plat maps
- Other miscellaneous materials

On the search page, enter the locality name in the field “recherche par thème”. Items marked with a camera (rather than a shopping cart) in the list of results can be accessed online. The results list may be quite long. For example, a search for “Cartigny” yields 614 results. The Protestant parish register volumes begin with number 201 of the list on page five. Click on the camera icon to access the images. Some church- and civil registration records are not available online.

Other online resources for Geneva Canton:

- A Huguenot online database <http://huguenots-france.org/france/sites/galiffe/galiffe.htm>
- List of surnames for which printed genealogies are available, with source references, see http://ge.ch/archives/media/site_archives/files/imce/pdf/genealogie/listegenealogies_aeg.pdf

Graubünden/ Grisons

Several research helps are available online:

- *Dokumentation Familienforschung* – a bibliography of published genealogical material for Canton Graubünden families

<https://www.gr.ch/DE/institutionen/verwaltung/ekud/afk/sag/dienstleistungen/bestaende/familienforschung/Documents/Dokumentation%20Familienforschung%20September%202016.pdf>

- A List of naturalized citizens 1801-1960, arranged by persons and by community
https://www.gr.ch/DE/institutionen/verwaltung/ekud/afk/sag/dienstleistungen/bestaende/kantonalesarchiv/Documents/QR_1-3b_STAR.pdf
- A list of parish registers available in the state archive
<https://www.gr.ch/DE/institutionen/verwaltung/ekud/afk/sag/dienstleistungen/bestaende/familienforschung/Documents/Kirchenb%C3%BCcher.pdf>

Jura

A parish register inventory (descriptions only; no actual records) is available online at <https://archivescantionales.jura.ch/archivplansuche.aspx?ID=274958> . Click on the (+) to open the next level, beginning with “Genealogie”.

Obwalden

A list of resources available for family history research at the state archive and elsewhere (not online!) is found at http://www.ow.ch/de/verwaltung/dienstleistungen/?dienst_id=2548

Schaffhausen

- Some church records are available online at <http://kirchenbuecher.sh.ch/> . Click on the book description to access the images. The waypoints listed on the left under “*Kapitel* (chapters)” allow direct access to various sections in each book.
- Some digitized parish registers are also available at FamilySearch; see <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1640373> Click on “Browse through ...”, then “Schaffhausen” to access records for Buchthalen, Büsingen-Buchthalen, Herblingen, Münster, Schaffhausen, Steig, and Sankt Johann
- A collection including city directories, some emigration records, and handwritten genealogical compilations specific to the Bartenschlager, Bartenschlager-Harder, and Bartenschlager-Baschlin families is available on FamilySearch at <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1720613>

Schwyz

A list of resources for family history research, arranged by time period, is found at <http://www.verwandt.de/infocenter/expertenbeirat/familiengeschichtliche-forschung-im-kanton-schwyz> . Actual records are not online.

Uri

A manuscript collection of compiled genealogies for families from Canton Uri, the “*Urer Stammbuch*”, is available on microfilm through FamilySearch (film numbers 1196948 ff.). A description of this collection, including historical background, is found at http://www.staur.ch/StAUR_Genealogie/GEN_Stammbuch.aspx#Anleitung .

Zug

Canton Zug doesn't have any records online, but it may be possible to search the online archive holdings query form to find clues and/or learn more about specific ancestors. See <http://cmistar.stazg.ch/> . Surname searches bring up a variety of documents, including entries for divisions of estate, property matters, wills, sales, appointments to public office etc.

Zürich

Several collections of interest to the family historian are found at http://www.staatsarchiv.zh.ch/internet/justiz_inneres/sta/de/bestaende/archiv/eledition.html :

- An index to marriages in Canton Zürich (EDB) from 1525 to 1700 is available online in several PDF reports, sorted by husband's or wife's surname.
- Abstracts of 15th Century civil (town) records of Zürich in several volumes
- A list of Zürich councilmen from 1225 to 1798

A database of students enrolled at Zürich University from 1833 to 1924 is found at <http://www.matrikel.uzh.ch> .

Printed books of citizens of the City of Zürich from 1819 to 1855 are available at <http://www.e-rara.ch/doi/10.3931/e-rara-25483>

Similar volumes for the years 1858 to 1882 are found at <http://www.e-rara.ch/doi/10.3931/e-rara-25045> . Also see Wikisource at <https://de.wikisource.org/wiki/Adressb%C3%BCcher> .